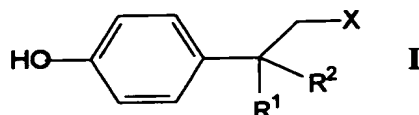


CLAIMS

1. Cosmetic or dermatopharmaceutical composition consisting of an excipient that is acceptable in cosmetic terms and, alone or in combination, a compound with the following general formula I:



in which:

group X is a $-NR^3R^4$ or $-N=CR^5R^6$ group,

each of groups R^1 and R^2 , which may be the same or different, consists in a hydrogen or halogen atom, or an alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, acyl, alcohol or alkoxy group,

each of groups R^3 and R^4 , which may be the same or different, consists in a hydrogen atom or an alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, acyl, sulfonyl or sugar group,

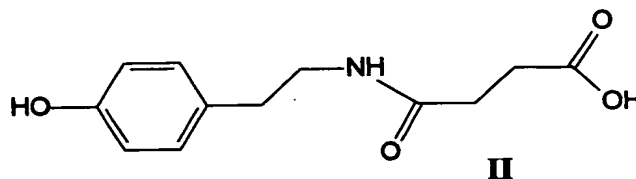
each of groups R^5 and R^6 , which may be the same or different, consists in a hydrogen atom or alkyl, aryl or aralkyl group,

and their salts with an acid acceptable in cosmetic terms in the form of an optically pure isomer or a mixture of isomers,

with the exception of tyramine (formula I, $X = -NR^3R^4$, $R^1 = R^2 = R^3 = R^4 = H$) and its derivatives formed by bonding on the OH or NH_2 group, any linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated, alkyl chain, which may be hydroxylated or contain sulfur or not contain sulfur, consisting of 1 to 24 carbon atoms, and with the exception of synephrine (formula I, $X = -NR^3R^4$, $R^1 = OH$, $R^2 = R^3 = H$, $R^4 = CH_3$).

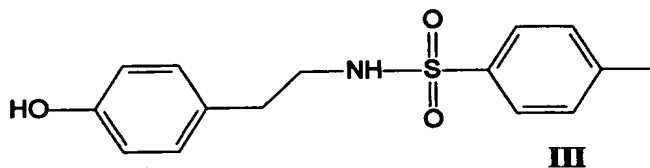
2. Cosmetic or dermatopharmaceutical composition as in claim 1 wherein said compound is present at a concentration between 0.0001 (m/m) and 50% (m/m), preferably between 0.001 (m/m) and 20% (m/m).

3. Cosmetic or dermatopharmaceutical composition as in claim 1 or 2 wherein said compound is octopamine (formula I, $X = -NR^3R^4$, $R^1 = OH$, $R^2 = R^3 = R^4 = H$) or one of its salts.
4. Cosmetic or dermatopharmaceutical composition as in claim 1 or 2 wherein said compound is N-succinyl-tyramine with the following formula II:



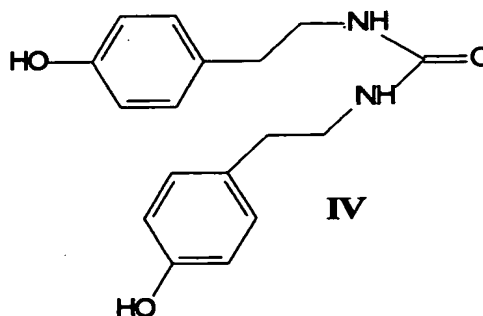
or one of its salts.

5. Cosmetic or dermatopharmaceutical composition as in claim 1 or 2 wherein said compound is N-tosyltyramine with the following formula III:



or one of its salts.

6. Cosmetic or dermatopharmaceutical composition as in claim 1 or 2 wherein said compound is N,N'-bistyramine urea with the following formula IV:



or one of its salts.

7. Cosmetic or dermatopharmaceutical composition as in any of the preceding claims, wherein said compound is used in the form of solution, dispersion, emulsion, paste, or powder, individually or in the

form of a premix, or are included individually or as a premix in vehicles constituted by carriers such as macro-, micro-, or nanocapsules, liposomes or chylomicrons, macro-, micro-, or nanoparticles or microsponges, or are adsorbed on organic polymer powders, talcs, bentonites, or other inorganic supports.

8. Cosmetic or dermatopharmaceutical composition as in any of the preceding claims, wherein said compound is used individually or in the form of a premix in any formulation, namely emollient lotions, emollient milks, or emollient creams, milks and creams for care of the skin or hair, make-up-removing cleansing creams, lotions, or milks, foundation tint bases, sun-screen lotions, milks, or creams, artificial suntan lotions, milks, or creams, shaving creams and foams, aftershave lotions, shampoos, lipsticks, mascaras, or nail varnishes.
9. Cosmetic or dermatopharmaceutical composition as in any of the preceding claims, characterized in that it contains at least one and preferably several other ingredients commonly used in cosmetic practice in a cosmetically acceptable mixture, selected from among the following categories: organic or hydroglycolic solvents, fatty substances obtained by extraction or synthesis, ionic or non-ionic thickeners, softeners, opacifiers, stabilizers, emollients, silicones, α -hydroxy acids, antifoaming agents, moisturizing agents, vitamins, perfumes, preservatives, sequestering agents, colouring agents, gel-forming and viscosity-increasing polymers, surfactants and emulsifiers, other water- or fat-soluble active principles, plant extracts, tissue extracts, marine extracts, sun filters, and antioxidants.
10. Process for the preparation of the compound with formula I of claim 1 characterized by the fact that the process includes a reaction consisting in coupling tyramine or one of its salts, in the presence or absence of a base, with a carbonyl or sulfonyl derivative, in the presence or absence of a coupling reagent used in peptide synthesis.

11. Process for the preparation of the compound with formula I of claim 1 characterized by the fact that it includes the stage of a coupling reaction of octopamine or one of its salts, in the presence or absence of a base, with a carbonyl or sulfonyl derivative, in the presence or absence of a coupling reagent used in peptide synthesis.
12. Process for preparation as in claims 10 or 11 wherein the carbonyl or sulfonyl derivative is an aldehyde, active or inactive ester, carboxylic or sulfonic acid chloride, anhydride or isocyanate.
13. Compound of formula I, II, III or IV characterized by the fact that it is obtained by the process as in claims 10 or 12 from a tyramine salt.
14. Compound of formula IV or one of its salts.
15. Use of the cosmetic or dermatopharmaceutical compositions as in any of claims 1 to 9 for the reduction of melanin production, in particular for lightening the complexion, attenuating senile lentigines, homogenizing the color of the skin or lightening any pigmentation associated with melanin, including that of the hair.
16. Use of the compositions defined in any of the preceding claims 1 to 9 in a form bound to or incorporated in, or absorbed in or adsorbed on, macro-, micro-, and nanoparticles, macro-, micro-, and nanocapsules, in textiles, natural or synthetic fibres, wools, and all materials capable of being used for clothing and day or night underwear, coming directly into contact with skin or with hair to permit continuous topical delivery.
17. Use of the compounds as in claims 13 or 14, or octopamine, alone or incorporated in a cosmetic or dermatopharmaceutical composition as in one of claims 1 to 9 for the preparation of medicinal products intended for skin care, for the reduction of melanin production, particularly skin lightening and reducing coloration on exposure to natural or artificial UV radiation.